In so far as Central Government hospitals are concerned, necessary equipments and medicines are available. The ambulances in the hospital are used for the use of patients.

Guidelines for Blood Banks

4066 SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any orders regarding guidelines and accredition norms for the blood banks spread throughout the country have been issued so as to ensure prevention of infection with HIV and other diseases during blood transfusion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether other important norms have also been added to these orders alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Standards for Blood Banks and Blood Transfusion Services have been issued by National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health, Government of India after due approval of National Blood Transfusion Council. The standards include details on all importants areas of functioning of Blood Banks. The testing of transfusion transmissible infections, including HIV and hepatitis, is mandatory for the blood banks to obtain a license from the Drug Control Authorities.

(c) Confirmatory tests and post test counselling will be done in the large blood banks collecting more than 3000 units per year for persons who were found HIV positive after the first test used for screening of blood.

Promotion of telemedicine

4067. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the President of International Society for Telemedicine and e-health, India is poised for big growth in telemedicine;

(b) whether low cost products could promote telemedicine in developing countries in a big way and telemedicine and e-health had an important role in providing quality healthcare to the people of world; and

(c) if so, what decisions were taken at the 12th International Conference of International Society of Telemedicine and e-health (IST&H) and the indicating outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes,Sir. During a press conference held at Chennai at the Appollo Hospital through video-conference on the occasion of announcement of joint conference of International Society and Telemedicine Society of India held in November, 1-3- 2007 at Chennai, the President of International Society for Telemedicine and e-health, gave a statement as above.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The said conference is not yet held. 12th Annual Conference of International Society for Telemedicine and e-health is going to be held jointly with 3rd Annual Conference of Telemedicine Society of India on Nov.1-3-2007

Declining sex ratio

4068. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State which has the highest decline in sex ratio during the last decade;

(b) what are the steps Government propose to change this ugly mindset of the people;

(c) what are the consequences of this declining sex ratio; and

(d) whether it would result in more girls being married in younger age, more girls dropping out of education, increased maternal mortality and an increase in acts of violence against girls and women such as rape, abduction, trafficking and forced polyandry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The highest